

Top Weather/Climate Events of 2015

- 10. Warm/Wet June
- 9. January 14 Ice Storm
- 8. June 20 Severe Weather
- 7. February 14 Arctic Cold Front
- 6. February 16 Snow
- 5. February 26 Snow
- 4. June 25 Severe Weather
- 3. October 2-4 Coastal Flooding
- 2. Warm December
- 1. Cold February

Honorable Mention

February 2 Convective Showers

- Gusts of 60 to 70 mph from a line of showers across eastern VA
- No lightning/thunder

March 5 Snow/Sleet

- Snowfall amounts up to 8 inches across north Virginia
- Snow/Sleet into northeast North Carolina

Warm May

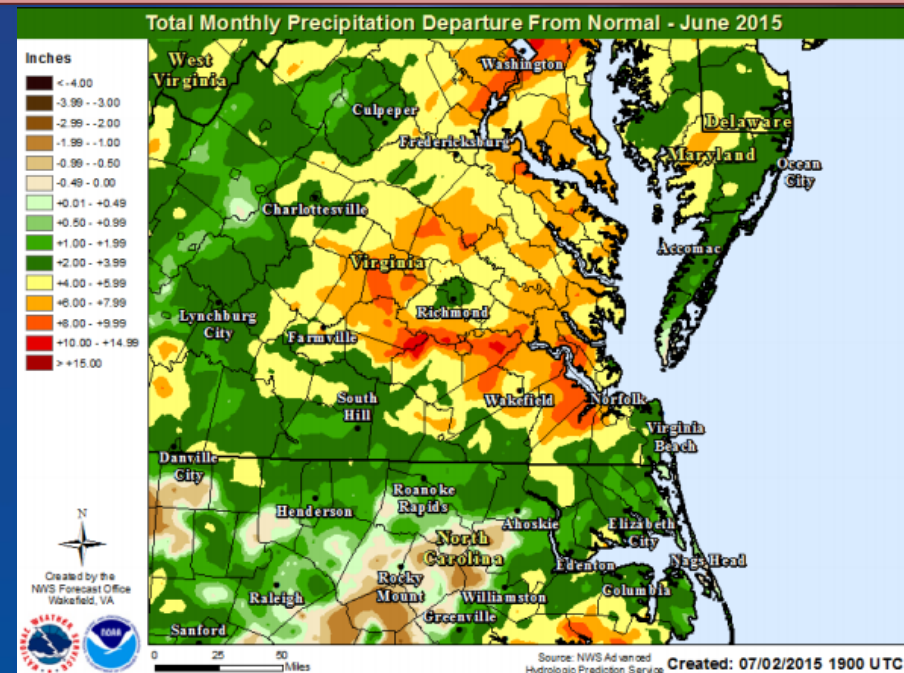
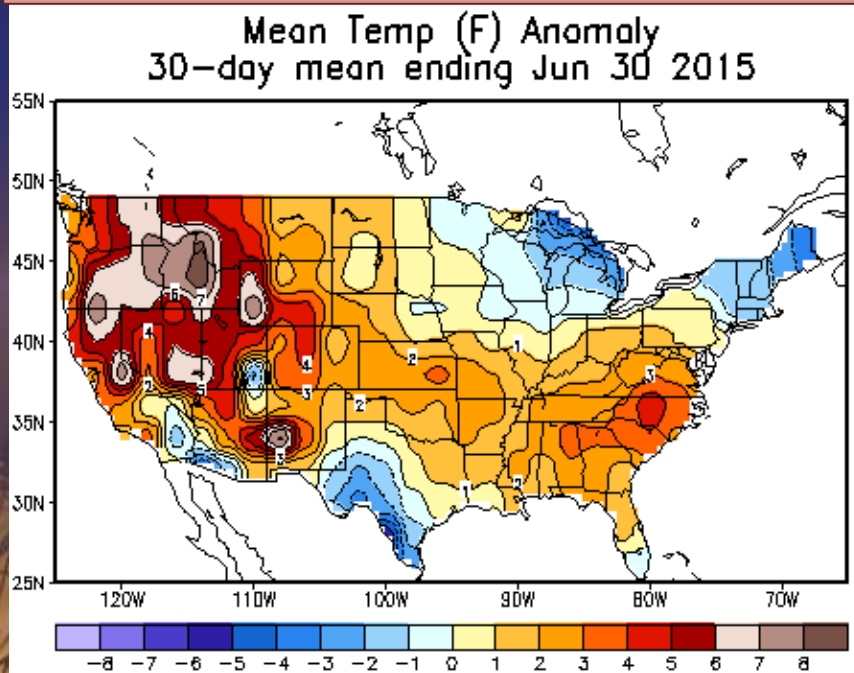
- 6th Warmest May at Richmond
- 10th Warmest May at Norfolk

June 18th Severe Weather

- 3 EF-0 tornadoes touched down in Richmond and Lancaster Counties

10. Warm and Wet June

The warmest temperatures of the summer occurred in June. Richmond and Norfolk reached 100°F and 99°F, respectively on the 23rd. June averaged 3°F above normal and was eighth warmest at Richmond and 7th warmest at Norfolk. In addition to being warm, June was also very wet. Rainfall averaged six to ten inches across the Wakefield area. 10 to 13 inches of rainfall occurred over south central Virginia from Williamsburg and Isle of Wight County to I-95 south of Petersburg. This was an unusual combination of warm and wet conditions, as warm June's typically relate to dry conditions. However, much of the rainfall occurred in the overnight period.



	Avg Temp	Normal	Rank
Richmond	77.9°F	75.3°F	8 th Warmest
Norfolk	78.7°F	75.3°F	7 th Warmest

9. January 14 Ice, Sleet, and Snow

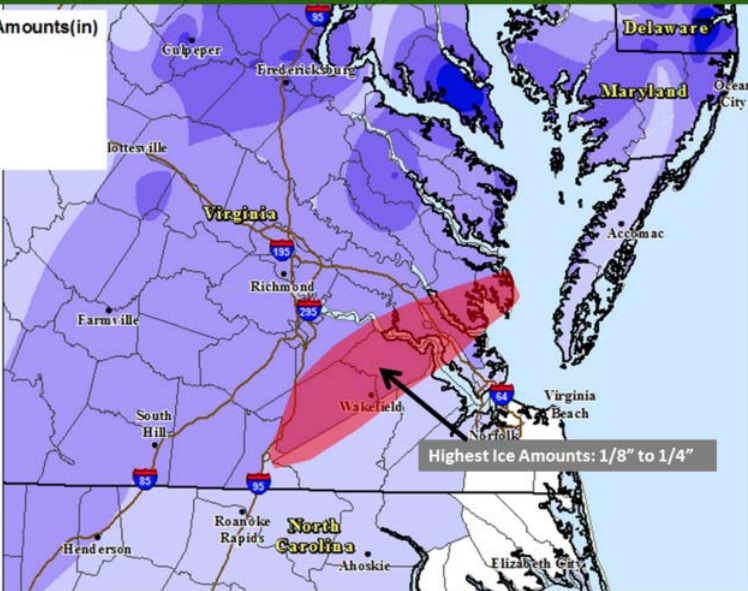
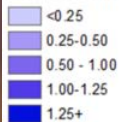


Richmond. *Times-Dispatch, Mark Gormus*

Light precipitation spread over the region from January 13th into the 14th as low pressure lifted along the southeast coast. Rain began falling at Richmond late on the 13th with the temperature in the upper 20s. Light freezing rain continued thru the overnight, with a corridor from south central Virginia to Williamsburg receiving up to one quarter of an inch of ice. Farther north, a transition from ice to sleet and snow occurred. Up to 1 inch of snow and sleet was measured across the northern local area. Precipitation type remained rain across the southeast.

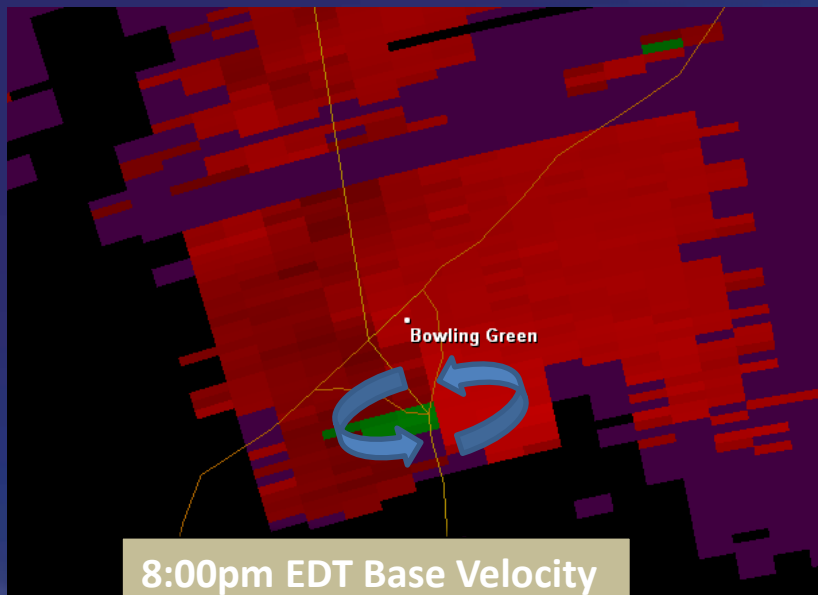
Mixed Precip Snow/Sleet/Ice Reports Jan 14, 2015

Mixed Precip Amounts(in)

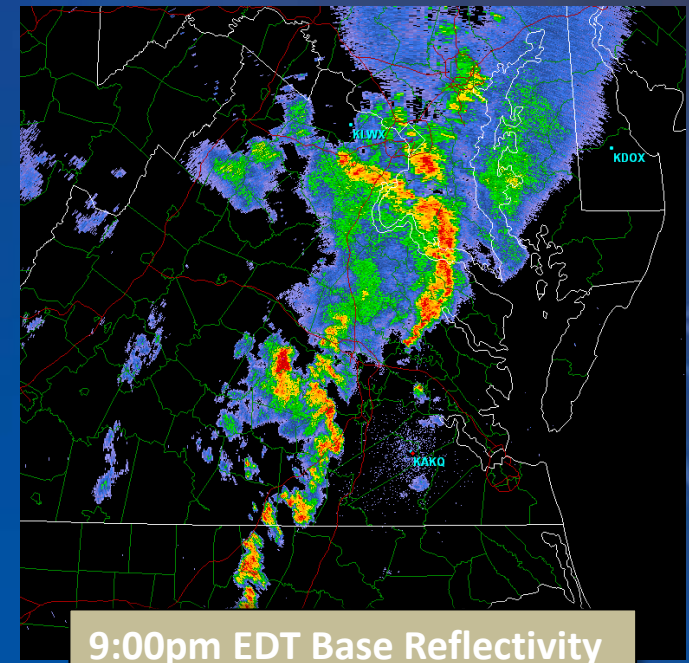
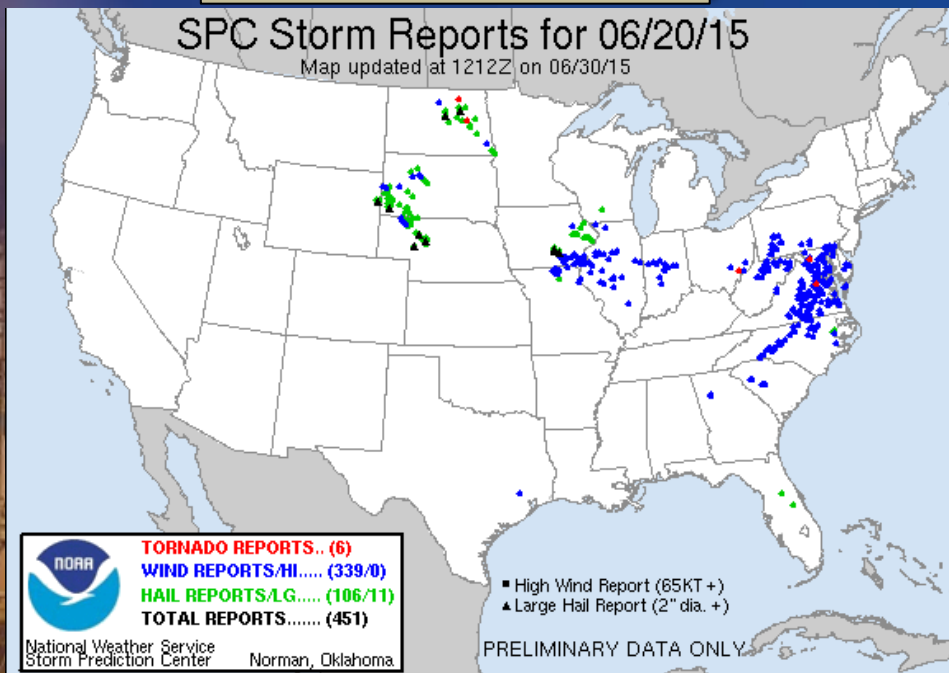


City	Ice (Inches)	City	Snow (Inches)
Wakefield	0.20	Salisbury, MD	0.8
Prince George	0.20	Bishopville, MD	0.8
Sandston	0.12	Palmyra, VA	0.5
Rushmere Heights, VA	0.12	Kilmarnock, VA	0.5
Gwynn's Island	0.12	Heathsville, VA	0.5
Franklin	0.10	Warsaw, VA	0.5

8. June 20 Severe Weather

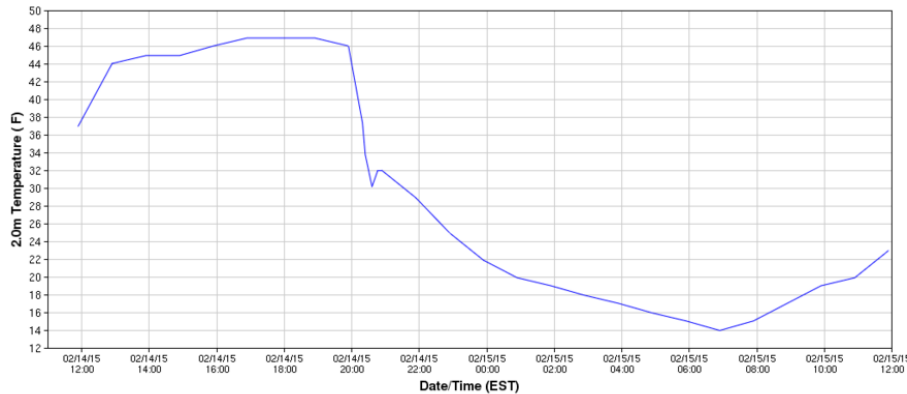


Remnants of tropical storm Bill interacted with a cold front over the region to produce widespread showers and thunderstorms. Widespread wind damage was reported with wind gusts as high as 60 mph. There were around 70 severe weather reports. A brief EF-0 tornado touched down just south of Bowling Green. The tornado track was 1.3 miles with a max width of 50 yards. A widespread 1-2 inches also fell across central Virginia to the Eastern Shore.



7. February 14 Arctic Front

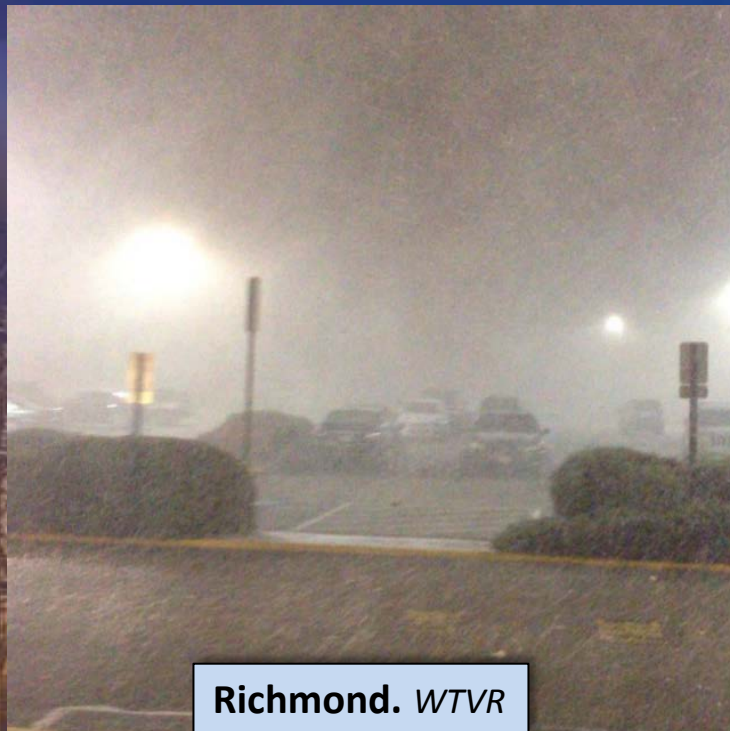
Richmond, Richmond International Airport (KRIC) - 2.0m Temperature



A strong and fast moving cold front crossed the Wakefield forecast area during the late afternoon and evening hours of February 14. Strong winds, snow showers, and cold temperatures accompanied the front. Temperatures warmed into the mid 40s at Richmond, before dropping 16 degrees in about 30 minutes just after 8:00 pm. A wind gust of 56 mph was recorded at Richmond Airport at the time of the frontal passage. Snow showers in strong winds resulted in visibility less than one quarter mile at times. Hundreds of thousands of VA residents lost power with temperatures dropping into the teens.

Select Wind Gusts (mph):

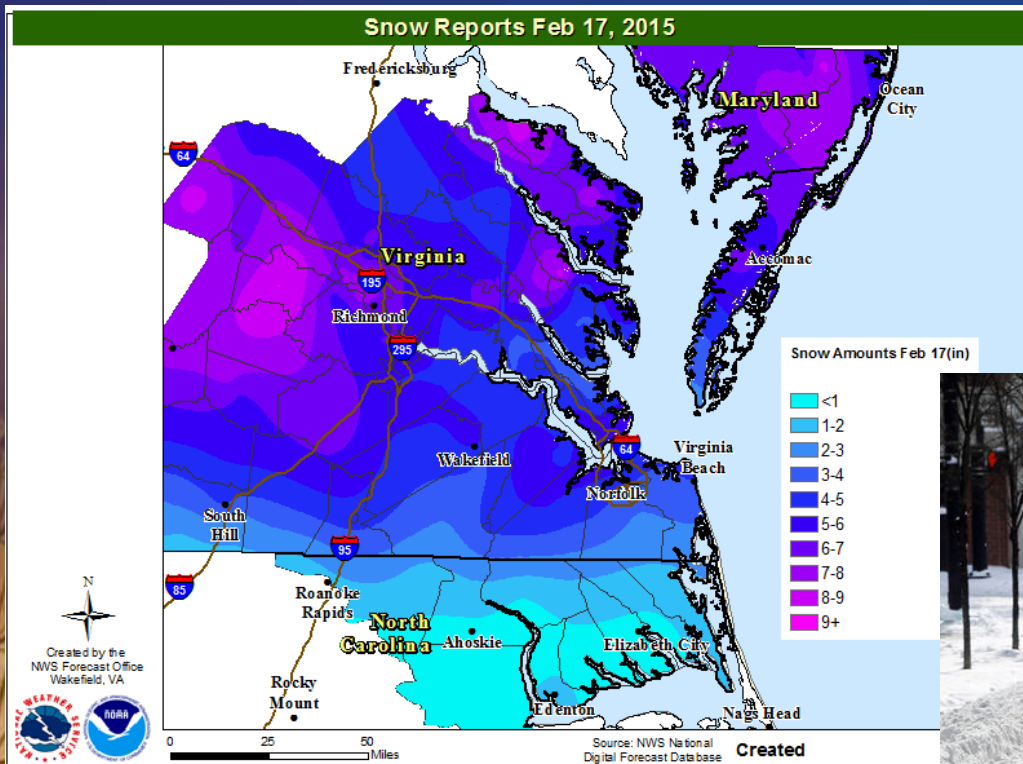
Dominion Terminal: 72
Ches. Bay Bridge Tunnel: 67
Elizabeth City, NC: 60
Melfa, VA: 60
Kiptopeke: 60
Coleman Bridge: 59
Virginia Beach: 58
Franklin: 56
Richmond: 56
Norfolk: 53



Richmond. WTVR

6. February 16-17 Snow

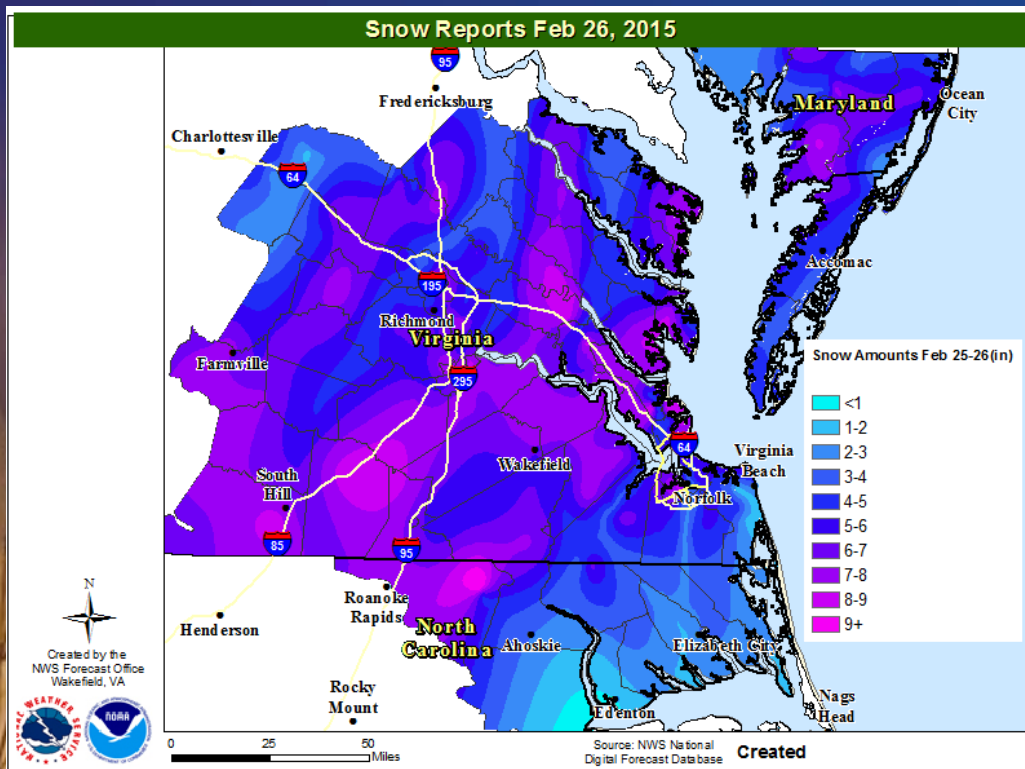
Significant snowfall occurred over the area from February 16th into the 17th. Some sleet mixed with the snow with a period of freezing rain across southeast Virginia and northeast North Carolina. A widespread 4 to 7 inches of snowfall was measured, with over 8 inches measured from the Piedmont to the Maryland Eastern Shore.



Richmond: Joe Mahoney, Times-Dispatch

5. February 26 Snow

The second heavy snowfall event of the 2014-15 winter brought 5 to 8 inches of snow to most of the area during the morning of the 26th. Snowfall was closer to 2 to 4 inches near the coast and mixed with sleet in portions of Hampton Roads and northeast North Carolina.



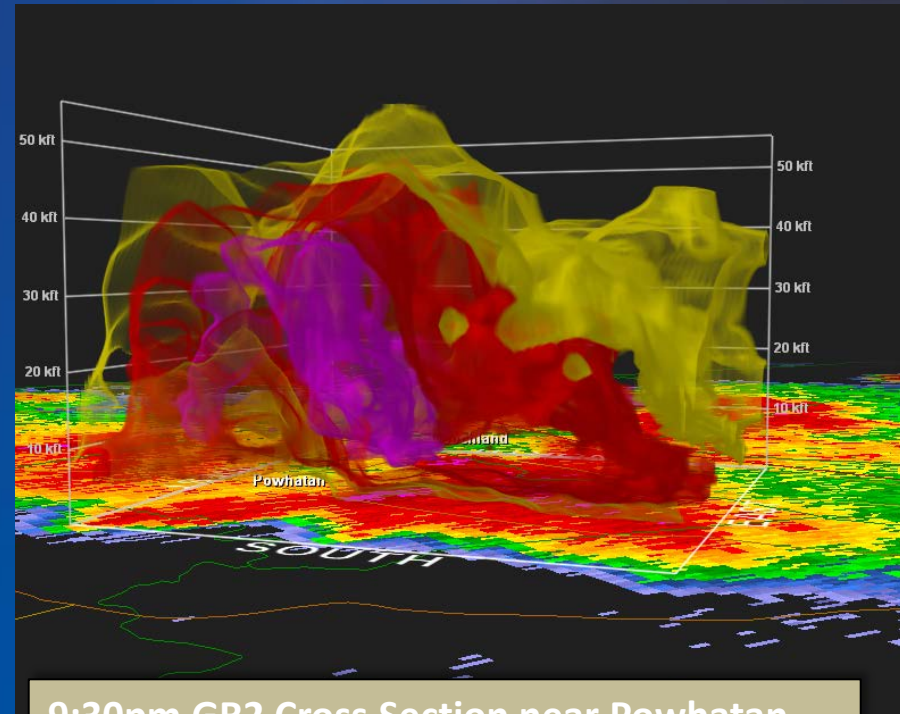
Richmond: P. Kevin Morley, Times-Dispatch

4. June 25 Severe Weather

Some of the most impressive severe thunderstorms of the year occurred on the afternoon and evening of June 25th. These mainly affected southern Virginia and northeast North Carolina. There were two rounds of severe weather, one in the late afternoon and the other in the late evening to just after Midnight. A gust to 70 mph occurred at Richmond International Airport at 930 PM. One of the largest hailstones since this office opened in 1994 is pictured below, reported as three inches in diameter.



3 inch diameter Hail Stone: Powhatan



9:30pm GR2 Cross Section near Powhatan.

3. October 2-4 Coastal Storm

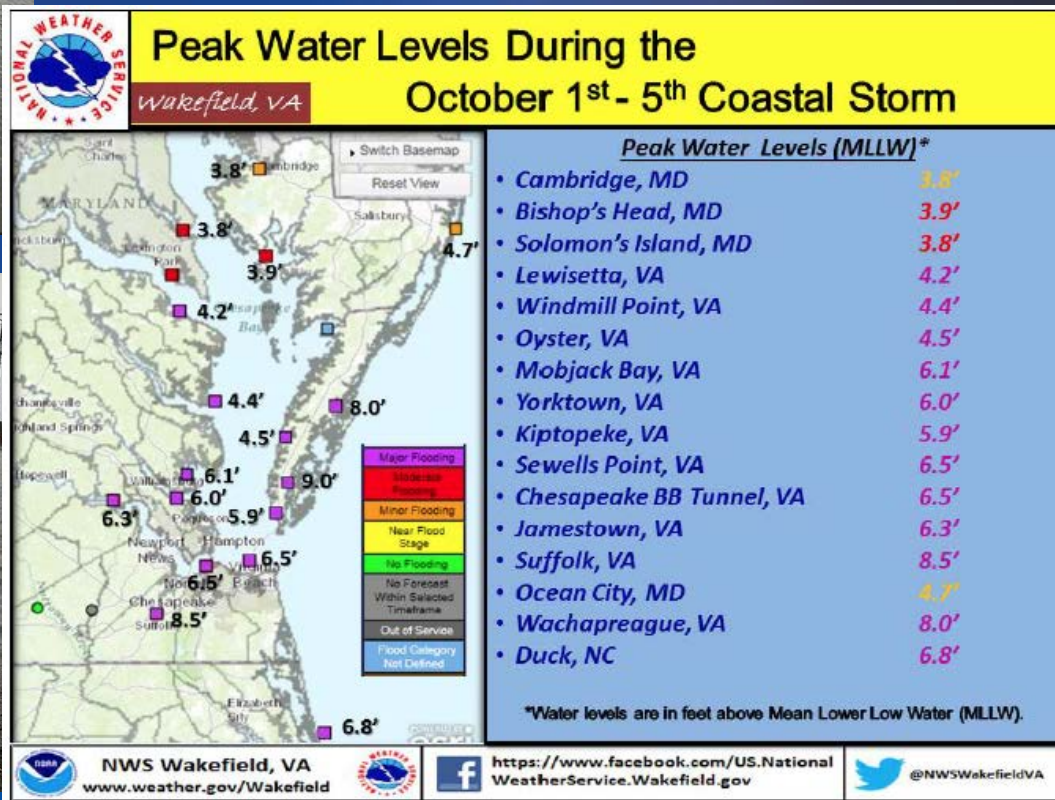


Chrysler Art Museum. *Virginian-Pilot*



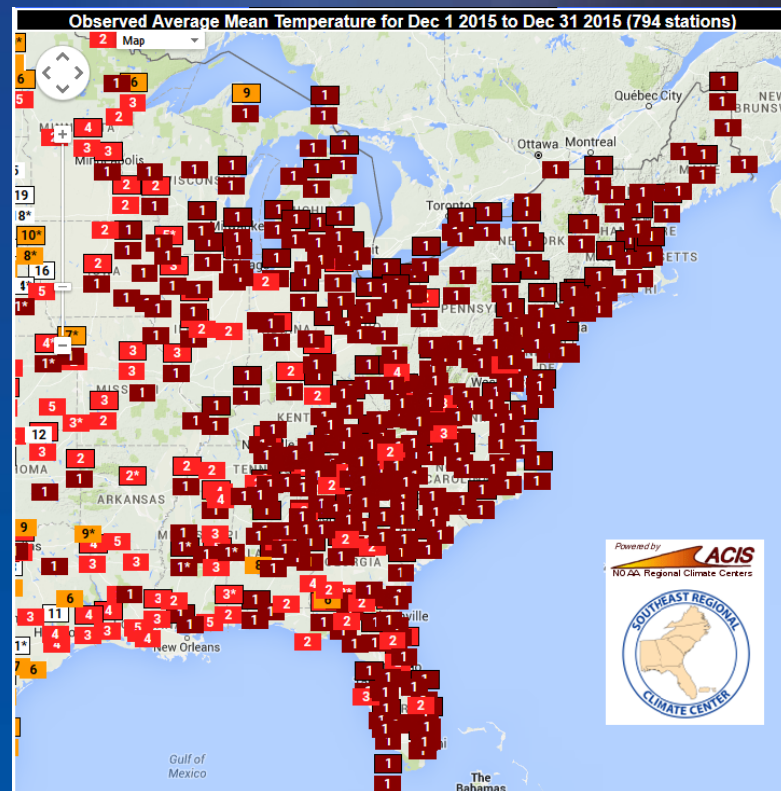
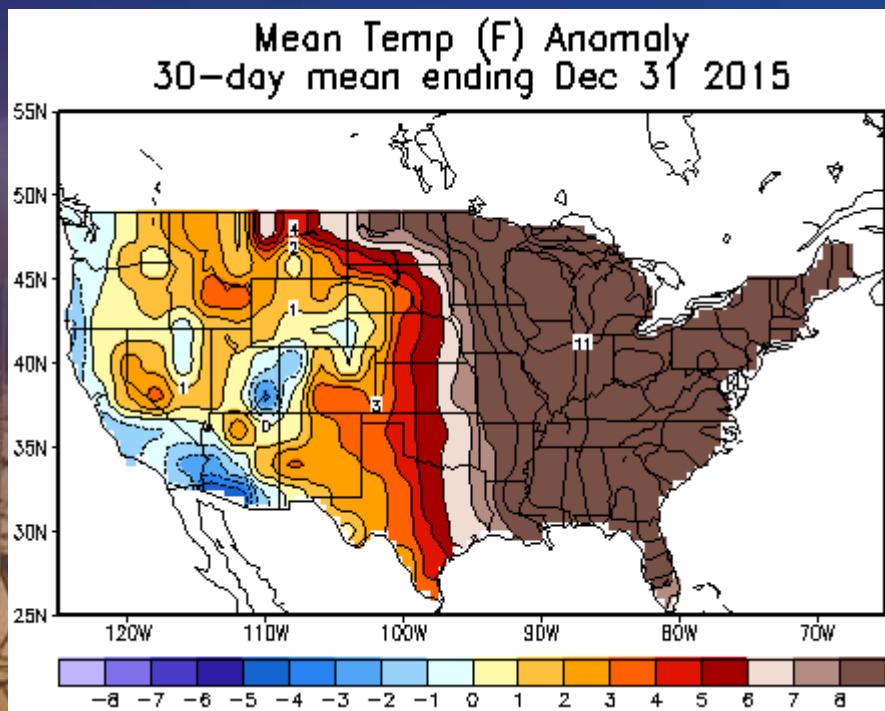
Wachapreague. *Virginian-Pilot*

The region experienced the worst coastal flooding since Hurricane Sandy from October 2 through October 4. The combination of powerful Hurricane Joaquin and anomalous high pressure over New England produced strong onshore flow for several days. The result was building water in the Chesapeake Bay and tidal rivers. Moderate flooding was observed along the Atlantic coast, Chesapeake Bay, and James River.



2. December Warmth

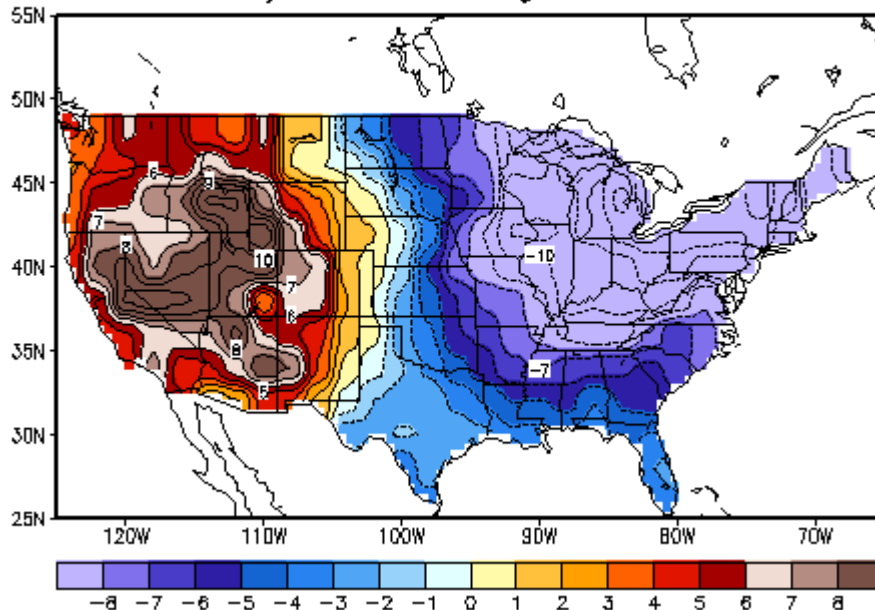
Two periods of unseasonable warmth made December 2015 the warmest December on record. The first was mid month from the 11th to the 17th, with an even more impressive stretch occurring from the 23rd to the 29th. Richmond and Norfolk ended with average temperatures of 52.1°F and 57.5°F, respectively. Norfolk beat the old record by more than 5 degrees. Salisbury, MD and Elizabeth City, NC also beat the old records by nearly 5 degrees. A low of 65°F on December 24 at Richmond set a new all time record high minimum temperature for the month of December. The same occurred at Norfolk, with a record high minimum of 68°F on the 24th. Norfolk also set a new all time high for the month of December, with a high temperature of 82°F on the 24th. Only one day dropped below 32°F at Norfolk.



1. Cold February

February 2015 was one for the record books as the month ended with well below normal temperatures and two major winter storms. The winter storms were discussed earlier. Both snowfall and cold temperatures finished in the top 10 on record at many sites. The last half to February went down as the coldest on record at Richmond and Norfolk. Norfolk dropped to 9°F on the 20th, setting the record for the latest cold temperature reading on record. Salisbury, MD set the coldest temperature for the month on record at -4°F on the 21st. The average temperatures at Richmond and Norfolk were 31.4°F and 32.5°F, respectively, or more than 10° below normal.

Mean Temp (F) Anomaly
30-day mean ending Feb 28 2015



Notable February Records:

Richmond:

- 6th coldest February on record and coldest since 1979
- 9th snowiest February on record
- Coldest last half of February on record (25.2°F average)

Norfolk:

- 3rd coldest February on record and coldest since 1934
- 7th snowiest February on record
- Coldest average low on record (23.9°F)
- Coldest last half of February on record (27.2°F average)
- Latest cold temperature reading on record (9°F on the 20th).